

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawings are submitted for each of Figures 15-19 labeling these figures as prior art.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make an editorial change therein.

Replacement drawings are submitted for Figures 15-19 labeling these figures as prior art.

The above changes are the only changes and are believed not to introduce new matter.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over FUJII JP 09-033584 in view of KOUYOUIMIJIAN IEEE, Vol. 62, No. 11). That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recognized in the Official Action, FUJII and KOUYOUIMIJIAN were submitted as part of an Information Disclosure Statement for the present application. Moreover, both of the cited references are discussed in the description of the prior art, page 1, line 10 through page 7, line 12 of the present application.

In these pages, FUJII is described as a conventional ray launching method where rays are radiated from an antenna. A receiving area is arranged surrounding a reception point. A ray

that passes the receiving area is received. See page 2, lines 15-20 of the present application.

The Official Action acknowledges that FUJII does not disclose the various ray spread elements and offers KOUYOUNIJIAN as disclosing these features.

However, KOUYOUNIJIAN does not disclose that which is recited.

Claim 1 recites diffracted-ray generating means for generating a plurality of diffracted rays by using the point on an edge (of a structure) as a diffraction point when a ray spread radius is equal to or larger than a distance between each of the rays and the edge.

By way of example, as seen in Figure 2 of the present application, reproduced below, the distance L1 between the edge E002 of the structure E001 and the ray R003 is compared to the ray spread radius S1 defined between the dotted lines.

FIG. 2

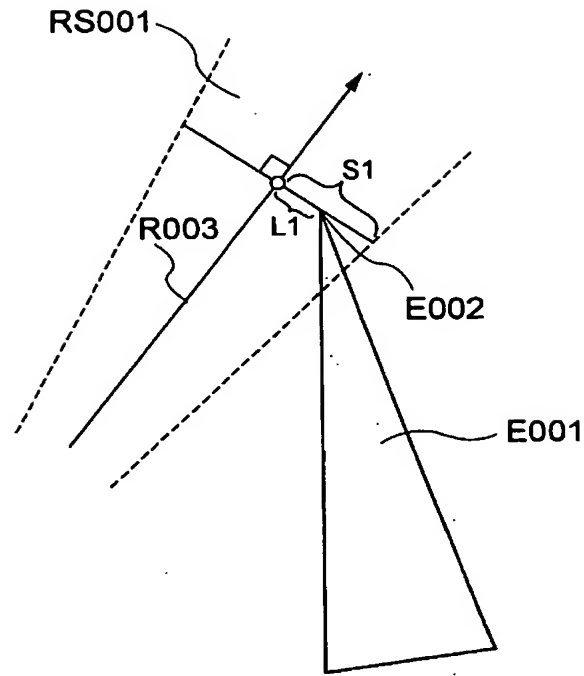


Figure 5 and the second column on page 1451 of KOUYOUMIJIAN describe a plane of diffraction and a plane of incidence (the shaded areas of Figure 5A). Although it appears that the plane of diffraction may be between an edge and a ray \hat{s} , nevertheless, KOUYOUMIJIAN does not compare such distance with the ray spread radius. In addition, KOUYOUMIJIAN does not suggest that when the ray spread radius is equal to or larger than the distance between each of the rays and the edge, the point on the edge is to be used as a diffraction point.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

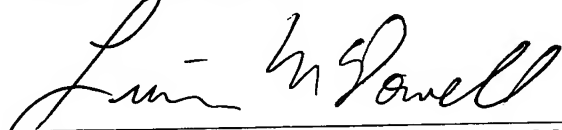
Independent claims 7 and 13 include similar features and the analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claims 7 and 13. The dependent claims are believed patentable at least for depending from allowable independent claims.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☐ - a terminal disclaimer
- ☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- ☐ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ - Replacement Sheets for Figures 15-19 of the drawings
- ☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- ☐ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document